

## NEW BOOKS.

Best Reviews of Important and Interesting New Publications.

In "The Duke of Stockbridge," by Edward Bellamy (Silver, Burdett & Goy), which is a story of Shay's Rebellion as that not very mighty disturbance manifested itself in Berkshire county, Mass., we have an excellent illustration of the disadvantages of cheap money. Capt. Perez Hamlin, coming home from the wars, stopped at the tavern in Great Barrington for a plate of pork and beans. He had been serving with Gen. Greene in South Carolina, an area blessed by heaven with many houses, not not supplied with quite all the matters which are peculiarly dear to New Englanders.

Taking a roll of Continental money from his pocket, Capt. Perez, having finished his repast, called for his bill, and this the landlord, noting the size of the captain's money, made out to be \$1,000. It was almost giving pork and beans away, he said, but he considered the claims that the army had upon patriots, and he thought that if the captain would favor him with clean bills he might use them to keep accounts on, and that would be some saving for writing paper was dear, like other things.

The popular disturbance called after Capt. Shay was largely due to the fact that the people in Massachusetts had no money because they had no money they were unable to pay rent, and because they were unable to pay rent they were sent to jail for debt. After Capt. Perez had settled for his pork and beans he stepped into the Great Barrington jail to see what it was like, and there, in a crowded and low-ceilinged cell he found his younger brother Reuben. At first he did not recognize him. Reuben said: "I suppose I'm kind of thin and some changed, so you didn't know me. You see, I've been here a year and am looking for a decline. I sent word home to have father ask Deacon Nash if he wouldn't let me go home to be nursed up by mother. I should get rugged again if I could have a little of mother's nursing. Perhaps you've come to know me, Perez."

Capt. Perez, joined the Shayites, who liberated all the prisoners in Great Barrington jail and presumably reduced the price of pork and beans. The insurgents found some difficulty in getting into the jail. Just as the jailer was handing over the keys his wife, who was good looking, watched them, and with a deft motion opening the top of her gown a little, dropped them into her bosom and looked at Perez with a defiant expression, as much as to say, "Now I would like to see you get them." It seemed after that as though there were really no way to get into the jail. The story says: "There was no doubt about the little shrew being thoroughly game, and yet her act was less striking as evidence of her bravery than as testifying her confidence in the chivalry of the rough men before her."

"And, indeed, it was comical to see the dumfounded and chafed expression on their flushed and excited faces as they took in the meaning of this piece of strategy. They had taken up arms against their government, and but a few moments before had been restrained with difficulty from laying violent hands upon the august judges of the land; but not the boldest of them thought it possible to touch this woman. There were men here whom neither lines of bayonets nor walls of stone would have turned back, but not one of them was bold enough to lay a forcible hand upon the veil that covered a woman's breast. They were Americans."

Under instructions from Capt. Perez, who was a resourceful man, the mob pretended that they were going to use the jailer as a battering ram to break down the door. But this was not a successful expedient. As they swung him back and forth, as if to gather momentum for an effective impact, he encouraged him to remain firm. His own spirit was failing. "Give 'em the keys, Marthy," he said. "They're a-killing me." "I shall keep the keys, Cephas," she declared. "It's my duty." Cephas protested. "Ye want see me killed 'fore yer eyes, will ye?" he said. "Give 'em the keys, I tell ye." "Mebbe 'twon't kill ye," she argued. "Ah, they can't bust the door, no how. Mebbe they'll git tuckered 'fore long."

To the jailer's relief another woman appeared at this juncture, and they got her to get the keys of course of the proper proceeding. But it appeared in the course of the story that Americans are not always and really quite so extremely respectful to the ladies as is here intimated and declared. Capt. Perez kissed Desire Edwards against her will and therefore with delicate rudeness; he was an American, but she was so pretty and provocative that perhaps he forgot it. She sat down before the little piano. It was scarcely more to be compared with the magnificent instruments of our day than the flageolets of Virgil's shepherd with the cornet-a-piston of the modern star performer, but Mozart, Haydn, Handel or Beethoven never lived to hear a better.

It was only about two feet across by about four and a half in width, with a small square sounding board at the end. The ancient thread-like wires, strung on a wooden frame, gave forth a thin and tiny sound which would instantaneously bring the hands of a modern audience to its ears. But to Perez it seemed divine, and when, too, Desire opened her lips and sang words of genuine emotion filled his eyes. She was more richly dressed than he had ever seen her before, wearing a cherry-colored silk bodice, low necked, and with bell-mouthed sleeves reaching only to her elbows, while her hands, white arms were set off with coral bracelets, a necklace of the same encircling her throat.

Upon one cheek, a little below the outside corner of the eye, she wore a small black patch, according to a fashion of the time, by way of heightening by contrast the delicacy of her complexion. "The faint perfume with which she had completed her toilet seemed less a perfume than the very breath of her beauty, the voluptuous influence which it exhaled. Having played and sung for some time she let her hand drop by her side and, raising her eyes to meet Perez's fascinated gaze, said lightly, 'Do you like it?'"

This charming daughter of the great Stockbridge storekeeper, Timothy Edwards, came in time and quite inevitably to fall in love with the rule Capt. Perez, who ruled Stockbridge for a season and who was nicknamed the Duke, because of his arbitrary power. The Legislature in Boston arranged matters after a while so that the people did not have to pay \$1,000 for a plate of pork and beans, and then the normal powers of the Commonwealth resumed their sway and the Duke of Stockbridge collapsed, together with the other manifestations of the Shay's Rebellion.

He was an interesting figure while he lasted, and this is an interesting story, with many passages of strength and charm. It was written before "Looking Backward," and was withheld from publication, the preface tells us, because the author "knew that, if published then, it would be received merely as a novel, and its depth of meaning would be perceived only by a few." Now its depth or meaning is offered for the perception of everybody.

When a gentleman from Philadelphia sets forth to see the outer world we may not unreasonably suppose that he will find much that may astonish him. Mr. Charles M. Taylor, Jr., the author of "Old Days of Travel With Brush and Camera" (George W. Jacobs & Co.), is a Philadelphian. He is also, as we learn from the title page, responsible for a volume entitled "The British Isles Through an Opera Glass." The title suggests a number of pleasing possibilities. We may wonder, for example, through which end of the opera glass Mr. Charles M. Taylor, Jr., of Philadelphia observed the British Isles. So much depends upon perspective. By imagining the opera glass reversed we

Continued on Eighth Page.

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